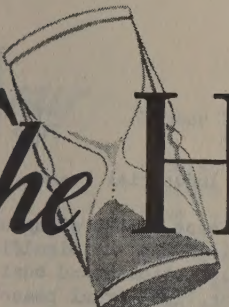


The Hour



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FIFTH COLUMN CAMPAIGN IN DETROIT

KKK and Council for Industrial Peace are Key Organizations in Fascist Drive

A rising fascist movement in Detroit, Michigan, is keeping pace with the auto city's current industrial boom. The Fifth Column drive has four immediate objectives; to recruit and organize the largest possible number of stormtroop elements; to undermine and disrupt labor unions; to build pro-Axis, "anti-war" sentiment; and to promote anti-Semitism on a wide scale.

The two key organizations in this anti-democratic campaign are the Ku Klux Klan and the Detroit Council for Industrial Peace. A number of other fascist bands have become active, but the Klan and the Council are supervising and coordinating the work.

Revival of Michigan KKK

At its Atlanta, Georgia Convention in June, the Klan decided to raise \$1,000,000 for an "Americanization Campaign." Michigan, once a center for KKK activity, was selected as the testing ground for the "Americanization" program. Detroit, in particular, is now witnessing the fruits of this decision.

The Kluxers are conducting an intense recruiting campaign in the auto plants, which employ a large number of workers fresh from the south. In certain companies the KKK has already become unusually strong. The Kluxers have made greatest headway at Ford, Briggs, Dodge, Motor Products, Packard and Hudson. On the whole, the recruiting drive is meeting with considerable success. Five hundred new members were recruited at a night meeting held less than two weeks ago. Kluxers are telling prospects that membership in the Klan will insure "quick promotion" in the plants where they work. As an inducement for ex-Klan members to return to the fold, the reinstatement fee has been reduced from one dollar to fifty cents. In several plants, special strongarm squads of Kluxers have been organized. The Detroit Klan headquarters at 89 East Forest St. is humming with activity.

Work of Detroit Council for Industrial Peace

The Detroit Council for Industrial Peace is operating on a more "respectable" plane than the Klan. The Council makes the dignified claim that it is "an organization of men, women, associations, and business institutions, united in a common effort" to bring "industrial peace" to the City of Detroit. It is significant that labor unions, which have an obvious interest in real industrial peace, are not invited to participate in the work of the Council. The Detroit Newspaper Guild has called the Council "the newest thing in Vigilantes," and has remarked that it "bids fair to supersede the Mohawk Valley Plan -- but it is much the same thing."

According to the Council, its sponsors consist of "a small group of manufacturers, merchants and businessmen -- all substantial citizens." An official of the United Auto Workers has described these "substantial citizens" as "professional strike-breakers, open-shoppers and red-baiters." This official says, "The actual brains in the outfit is Pierce Wright, who for twenty years tried to smash the Building Trades Council of Detroit ... The sponsoring committee includes most of the city's outstanding labor haters."

The Council's efforts are devoted mainly to anti-labor activity. Conscious of the anti-fascist character of unions, the Council is working to cripple the labor movement in Detroit. Recently the Council decided that a mass vigilante movement would be useful and attempted to organize a citizens' committee for "Law and Order." Detroit's largest auditorium, seating 20,000, was rented for a meeting. Sixty thousand free tickets were distributed. But, to the Council's disappointment, only 1,000 potential vigilantes appeared at the meeting. Other Council attempts to organize a mass base have met with similar failure.

The funds of the Council somewhat offset the paucity of its following. The Hour is reliably informed that within the last month more than \$75,000 has been donated to the Council. Sums ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 were received from some of the largest corporations in Michigan.

National Workers' League

Among the various other fascist groups cooperating in Detroit's Fifth Column drive is the National Workers' League. The League was formed three years ago from remnants of the notorious Black Legion. Parker Sage, a professional labor spy, is head man in the League, and under his expert direction the organization carries on disruptive, anti-union activities. The promotion of anti-Semitism is a speciality with the League, which is openly pro-Nazi and has worked closely with the German-American Bund. An example of League propaganda is the following statement, which appeared in the June 25 issue of the League's Nationalist Newsletter:

"Fellow-Americans! The European war is being liquidated in the manner it should have started. Doomsday has dawned for the world's most degenerate political system -- Jewish Communism. This noble task undertaken by the grievously mis-

understood and maligned German people deserves unstinted support from all peoples professing any belief in religion ... Humanity is now being indebted to the German nation for a deed we were not clean enough to even attempt -- the debt cannot be repaid in this century. ... It is a privilege to be living in this great age. As Americans we should feel envious of the role assigned by fate for the glorification of the German nation. Let us strive to prove worthy of their friendship."

Auto City Fuehrers

The Fifth Columnists in Detroit receive ideological guidance from several prominent fascists who have established headquarters in the auto city. Chief among these are Father Charles E. Coughlin, whose Shrine of the Little Flower rises bleakly on the city's outskirts; Gerald L. K. Smith, former Silver Shirt leader whose anti-democratic efforts are supported by some of Detroit's "best" people; and Reverend Norris, rabble-rouser and evangelist, once tried on charges of murdering a man by shooting him in the back.

Under the skillful tutelage of these and other Quislings, the stormtroop bands in Detroit are forging ahead.

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NOTES ON BROENSTRUPP-SPIRIDOVICH

A particularly vicious anti-democratic, anti-Semitic leaflet is being widely distributed by the veteran pro-Nazi who calls himself Lieutenant General Count V. Cherep-Spiridovich. The face of the leaflet is devoted to a cartoon entitled "Your Crucifixion," which depicts Uncle Sam being crucified by President Roosevelt, Frank Knox, Henry Stimson and other administration leaders. This group is surrounded by crude caricatures of prominent American Jews, who are labeled "The Internationalists," and who are exclaiming with reference to the crucifixion: "We planned it that way!" The reverse side of the leaflet carries a violent diatribe against "the mongolian Jew world conspiracy."

In the July 20, 1940, issue of The Hour, we pointed out that Cherep-Spiridovich is not the real name of this Nazi agent. His correct name is Victor H. Broenstrupp. He borrowed his pseudonym from Major-General Count Cherep-Spiridovich, the late Czarist officer and notorious pogromist. Broenstrupp claims he is "the adopted son" of the Count, who, he says, before dying willed both name and rank to him along with the "blessing" to continue his anti-Jewish work.

Certainly Broenstrupp carried on in the Spiridovich tradition. He published a Jew-baiting mimeographed sheet called Gentile Review, which he devoted to such studies as tracing the origin of the Jews to a species of African apes. He wrote a number of rabidly anti-democratic pamphlets; in one, "Revolution in America," he exhorted "American Aryans" to revolt against the tyranny of the U. S. Government. He composed savage articles, which he distributed in leaflet form, attacking President Roosevelt and his "coterie of Mongol-Jewish advisers."

Present Activities

At present Broenstrupp-Spiridovich operates through a sham organization which he calls The American Tribunal. Actually he is the organization. His scurrilous propaganda is mailed from his address at 9 Sherriff Street, New York City.

It is noteworthy that this professional anti-Semite was for some time employed on the Aeronautics Index Project of the WPA. American taxpayers contributed \$87.80 a month to this man whose speciality is defaming democracy and boosting the cause of Der Fuehrer.

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HUDSON AND HAMILTON FISH

The Hour learns that Naziphile Charles B. Hudson, editor of the violently anti-Semitic America In Danger!, is distributing reprints of speeches made in Congress by Representative Hamilton Fish of New York. Hudson is sending these reprints through the U. S. mails in envelopes bearing Hamilton Fish's name; and he is using the Congressman's franking privilege.

The latest item circulated by Hudson is entitled "No Convoys! No War!" It is a speech made by Fish in Congress on April 21, in which the Congressman condemns President Roosevelt's foreign policies and condones those of the Axis governments.

"At any time during the last year and a half Dictator Hitler could legally have declared war on us for unneutral acts that we have taken against him, and that is truer since we have passed the lend-lease bill. But that is the last thing he is thinking about. The last thing that Hitler or Mussolini would want to do is declare war on us."

It is only natural that Charles B. Hudson should want to publicize the views of Representative Fish, since Fifth Columnists are in unanimous agreement that Fish's opinions should reach the widest possible audience. Fish has won their admiration and support by his consistent pro-fascist stand. American Quislings know he is one man they can depend on.

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NAZI PROPAGANDA ITEM

U. S. Fifth Columnists, all of whom adhere closely to the propaganda of the Third Reich, are labeling the growing anti-Nazi sentiment in this country as being "Jewish-inspired" and are characterizing all efforts to aid Britain and Russia as the conspiracy of a "Jewish administration." Typical of this none too subtle campaign is this passage which recently appeared in William Dudley Pelley's fascist publication Weekly Roll-Call:

"Louder and bolder the comments can be heard throughout the hinterland that the United States is being served by a Jewish administration, and such Jews are demonstrating their lack of fitness for the job...Meanwhile England proceeds closer and closer to the moment of falling, and when England falls, Roosevelt falls; and when Roosevelt falls, the Jews of the United States as his major espousers fall with him."

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